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Labour Market Information Monthly

Most Career College Students Find Work Related to Field of Study

MONTREAL, March 26, 2009 – Most Canadian students who pursue post-secondary studies at privately-owned career colleges find work in fields related to their studies within six to nine months of graduation. The Survey of Canadian Career College Students found that 60% had found full-time work within six to nine months of graduation while 19% had found part-time employment. Eight out of ten indicated that the jobs they held were either very related (55%) or somewhat related (25%) to their training. Two-thirds of graduates indicated that they were satisfied (36%) or very satisfied (30%) with their private career college. Ten percent were unemployed and seeking work.

These are key findings from the survey of 4,065 career college students. The survey, commissioned jointly by the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, is the first major study of students attending career colleges. R. A. Malatest and Associates Ltd. conducted the survey with the cooperation of the National Association of Career Colleges.

The Phase III report, published today, also shows that, overall, the average annual income among working graduates was $26,727, six to nine months after graduation. However, almost two-thirds of graduates who had borrowed to finance their education expressed concerns about their ability to repay their loan. The level of concern was highest among those owing more than $20,000.

The Phase III report, as well as those released earlier on Phases I and II, is available at www.millenniumscholarships.ca/en/research/AllPublications.asp . Data were gathered before the current economic downturn began.

Phase II of the survey showed that most career college students tend to be older, with a mean age of 29, and rely more heavily on government financial aid. Seventy-two per cent are women. Most seek education that will equip them for specific careers by following courses of seven to 12 months' duration.

The central objectives of the survey – the first comprehensive look at career college students – were to understand the socio-economic background of students, identify their reasons for choosing private institutions and to assess both post-program outcomes and the level of student satisfaction with services provided.

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Statistics Canada
www.statcan.gc.ca

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In the Midst of Recession

Conference Board of Canada's Canadian Outlook Executive Summary for Spring 2009

Despite drastic intervention, the U.S. government, Treasury, and Federal Reserve have not yet succeeded in unclogging financial markets. The U.S. economy continues to bleed jobs at an accelerating pace, doing little to rekindle consumer confidence, and the full brunt of a decline in U.S. household spending is now coming to bear on the global economy. Recent indicators suggest that 2009 may see the first contraction in global trade in over 60 years, resulting in a multiplier effect that has even the strongest economies on their knees. While growth remains positive in some key developing nations, such as China and India, these gains will not be enough to offset declines in the United States, much of Western Europe, and Japan.

Even with a relatively healthy banking sector and strong fiscal position, Canada's economy is also in the midst of recession. According to Statistics Canada, the economy contracted in the fourth quarter of 2008 at an annual rate of 3.4 per cent, the most significant quarterly decline since the 1990–91 recession. Moreover, the outlook for the first half of 2009 is dismal. Demand for exports, consumer goods, housing, and private investment are expected to decline. The only bright spot comes from loose public purse strings as governments spend heavily in a bid to stimulate the economy back to health. (Strong public spending, however, will come at a cost of sizable near-term deficits.)

The deep declines now expected over the first half of 2009 lead us to downgrade our forecast. We are now forecasting that real gross domestic product will contract by 1.7 per cent in 2009—down from a 0.5 per cent decline forecast in our previous Canadian Outlook. While Canada's economy is still searching for footing, the U.S. recession is much further along, and there are signs that our southern neighbour's economy is starting to form a bottom on a few fronts. Residential construction, for example, is at levels well below demographic requirements. By some estimates, so are vehicle sales.

Both U.S. residential construction and auto sales are heavily weighted components for our export sector. Yet, while we may have reached bottom on these fronts, the timing of a significant recovery remains a critical risk to the outlook. This forecast assumes that the U.S. economy will crawl back into growth over the latter half of 2009 before picking up steam in 2010. Nonetheless, even the modest growth expected in the United States will help to stabilize our own economy and push real GDP growth up by 2.5 per cent in 2010.

What is being confirmed through this business cycle is the high degree of interdependence among global financial markets and economies. Concern about the sustainability of the U.S. economy in the face of growing trade and fiscal imbalances has been building since 2003—the same time that energy prices started their upward march.

But even as oil prices continued to rise, growth in the U.S. was sustained, helped in part by the rest of the world's willingness to purchase U.S. Treasuries and help finance the United States' growing twin deficits. Moreover, U.S. household spending—a pillar of global demand—was being artificially lifted by the real estate price bubble. But even as U.S. housing markets began their decline in late 2005, and as the first wave of financial market troubles hit in July 2007, equity and commodity markets held up. While the U.S. economy was looking to experience softer growth, investors seemed to hold on to a fundamental belief that the global economy could weather the storm. Their faith in the markets was based on the idea that growth in emerging markets was building on its own momentum, and that the global economy was about to witness the larger benefits that globalization had to offer.

This belief held markets up through the second half of 2007 and well into 2008—but then came swiftly to an end over a one-month period from mid-September to mid-October 2008. The banking sector crisis led investors to the collective opinion that there was much more risk of a significant U.S. recession. As volatility hit equity markets, this opinion was reinforced, as was the belief that the global economy would not be able to withstand the slowdown. The result was a hit to commodity prices that led to even steeper declines in equities. This fast, vicious cycle has had huge repercussion on household wealth and cash flow for businesses. At the same time, the financial crisis added further difficulty by freezing up credit. Arguably, however, the biggest hit has been to consumer and investor confidence the world over. The decline in confidence produced its own vicious

cycle, as easing consumer spending caused balance sheets to deteriorate and forced business to cut back on wages and employment. The result has been a worldwide drop in demand and trade.

Canada's economy is certainly not immune to the global collapse in trade. Real export volumes are forecast to fall by nearly 11 per cent this year on the heels of a 4.7 per cent decline in 2008. However, price effects are serving to aggravate the effects of falling trade. This year, oil prices are expected to average less than half their 2008 average of US$100 per barrel, and commodity prices on the whole are forecast to decline by a whopping 29 per cent! At the same time, the cost of imports has risen sharply due to the sharp depreciation in the loonie over the fourth quarter of last year. Overall, the nominal trade balance is forecast to drop by a phenomenal $65 billion in 2009—an amount equivalent to 4.2 per cent of nominal GDP.

While it was the drop in equity markets and concern about a global economic downturn that first affected business confidence in Canada, the ensuing sharp drop in nominal trade revenues and profits has completely paralyzed business investment. Revenues plummeted over the second half of 2008, and the result is that oil sands development and conventional drilling are being held back by shrinking budgets. At the same time, nonenergy construction will be down because of the completion of a number of major commercial and office building projects and the lack of appetite for starting anything new. Moreover, tax incentives will do little to motivate struggling manufacturers to invest in retooling or new machinery. Total real business investment is forecast to drop by a record1 14 per cent this year, and only a modest recovery is forecast for 2010.

In addition to a sharp drop in capital investment intensions, Canadian businesses are also cutting back on payrolls. Employment dropped sharply at the start of 2009, largely in the construction and manufacturing sectors, and more prudent hiring is resulting in a growing share of part-time employment at the expense of fulltime jobs. Similar to business confidence, household confidence was also first affected by falling equity values. However, the reality of job losses and weak employment prospects has sunk in, leading consumers to cut back sharply on spending late in 2008 and early this year. Despite a soft recovery in spending forecast for the second half of 2009, real consumer spending will remain essentially flat this year.

It currently looks as though government spending will be the only bright spot in the forecast, as provincial and federal governments commit to large stimulus packages and large deficits. In its January budget, the federal government committed about $12 billion over two years to new infrastructure spending. This spending should be matched by equivalent funds at the provincial level.

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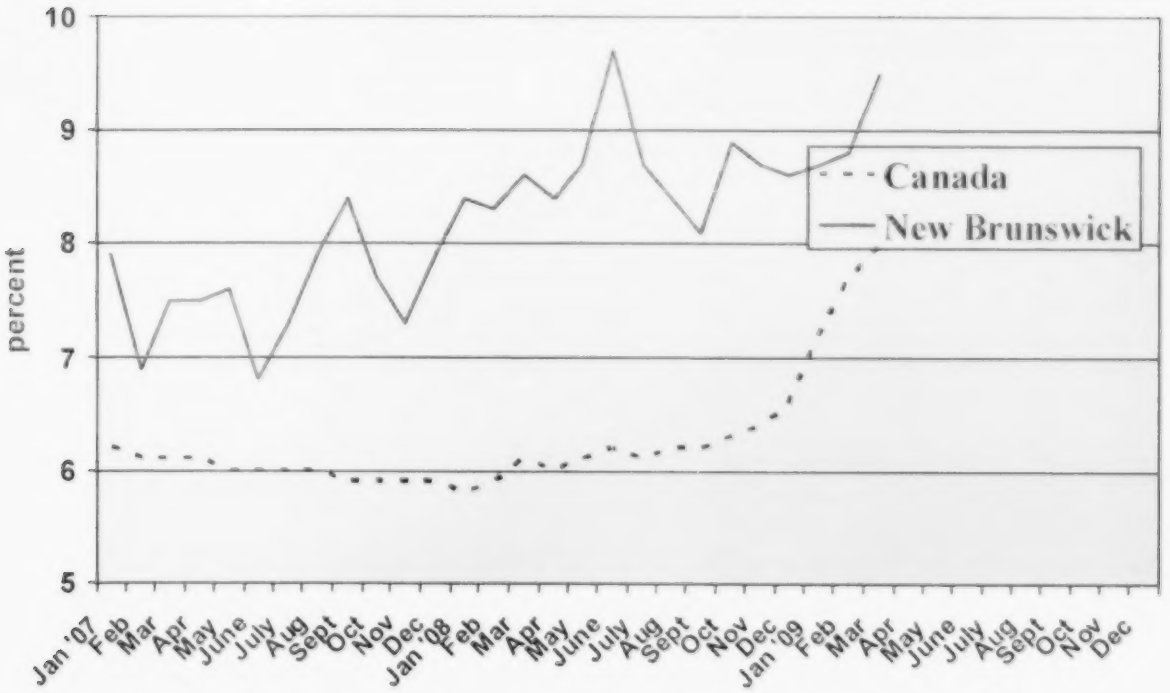
Labour Force Statistics for March 2009

Canada and the Provinces

In March, Canada's unemployment rate was 8.0%, 0.3 of a percentage point higher than last month, and 1.9 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year. New Brunswick's rate of 9.5% was 0.7 of a percentage point higher than last month and 0.9 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year, when it stood at 8.6%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
Canada and New Brunswick

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

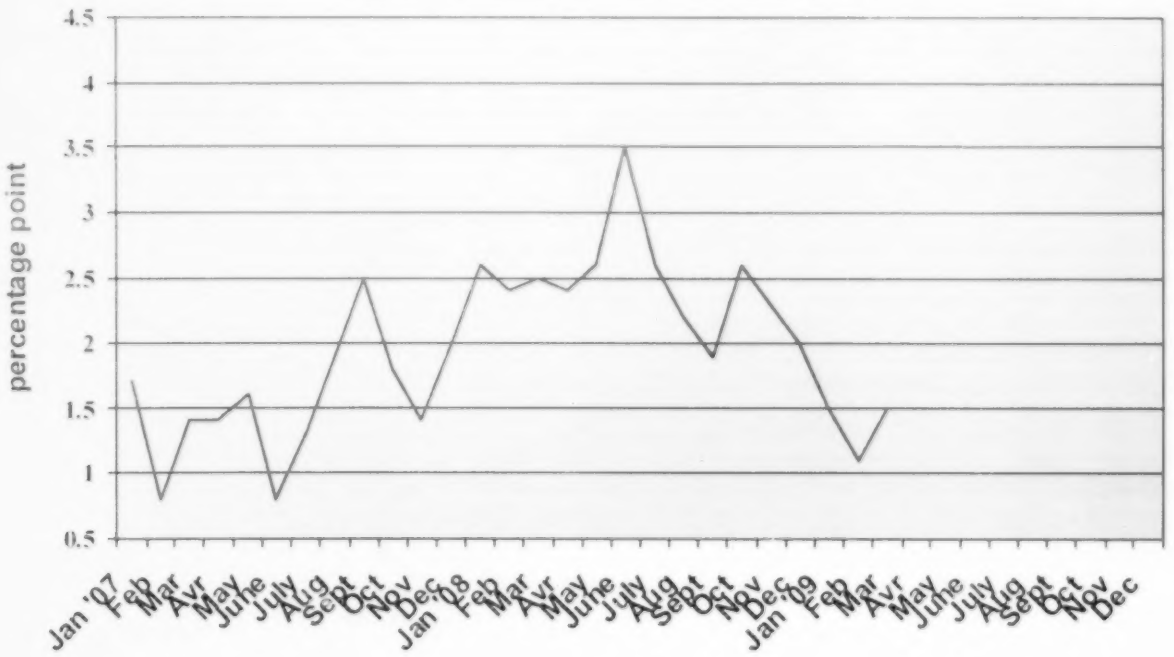


Canada and the Provinces

The gap between the national and provincial rates was 1.5 percentage points in March.

DIFFERENCE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
Canada and New Brunswick

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



Statistics Canada's website has been converted to http://www.statcan.gc.ca in order to comply with Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat's Common Look and Feel Standards for the internet. The website has a whole new look but the quality of content has not changed. Please note that you will need to update your links and bookmarks.

WWW.STATSCAN.GC.CA

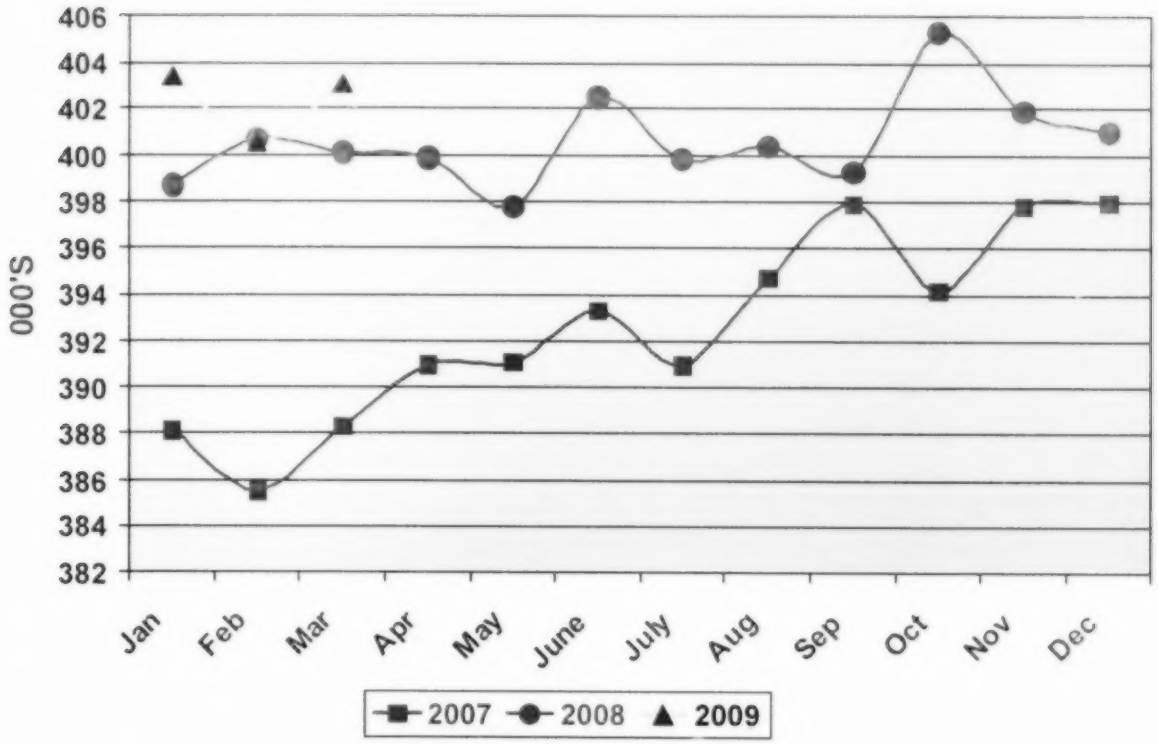
Labour Force Statistics for New Brunswick

Labour Force

New Brunswick's labour force stood at 403 100 in March. This represented an increase of 2 500 over last month and represented an increase of 3 000 over the same time last year.

LABOUR FORCE
New Brunswick

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



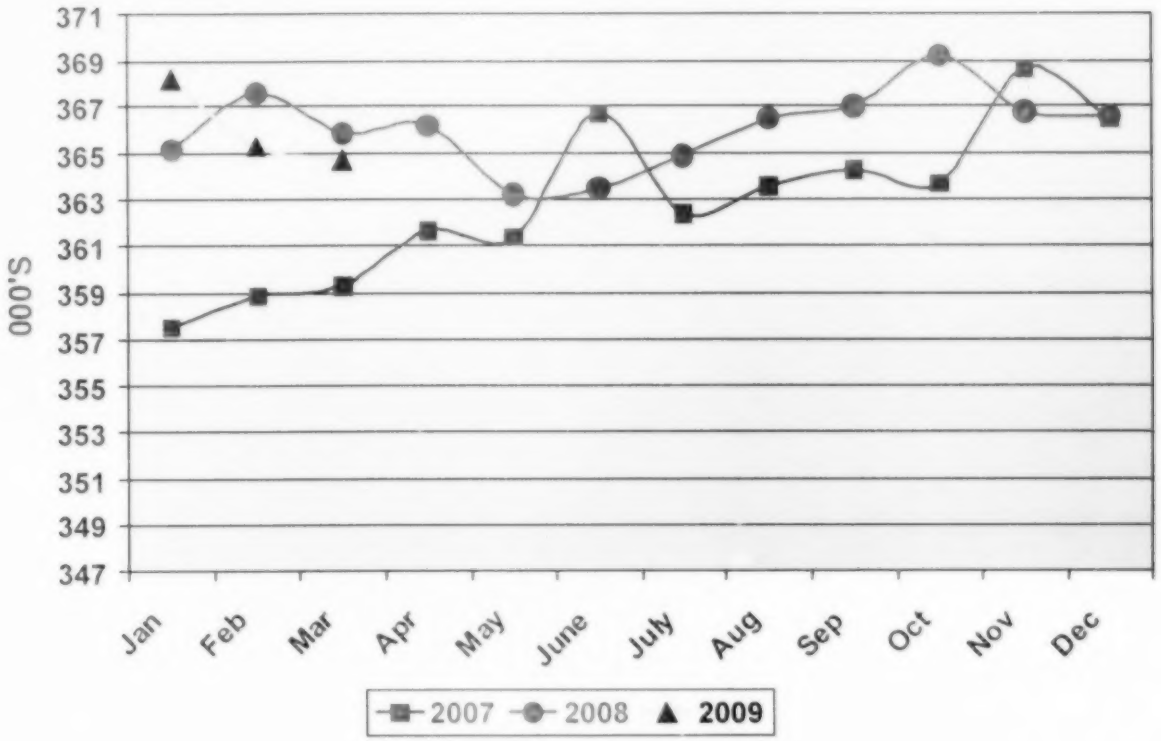
Labour Force Statistics for New Brunswick

Employment

There were 364 700 people working in March. This represented a decrease of 600 over last month and a decrease of 1 200 over the same period last year. The year-over-year employment growth was - 0.3%, compared to the national growth of - 1.5%.

EMPLOYMENT
New Brunswick

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



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http://www.gnb.ca/0126/index-e.asp

Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour

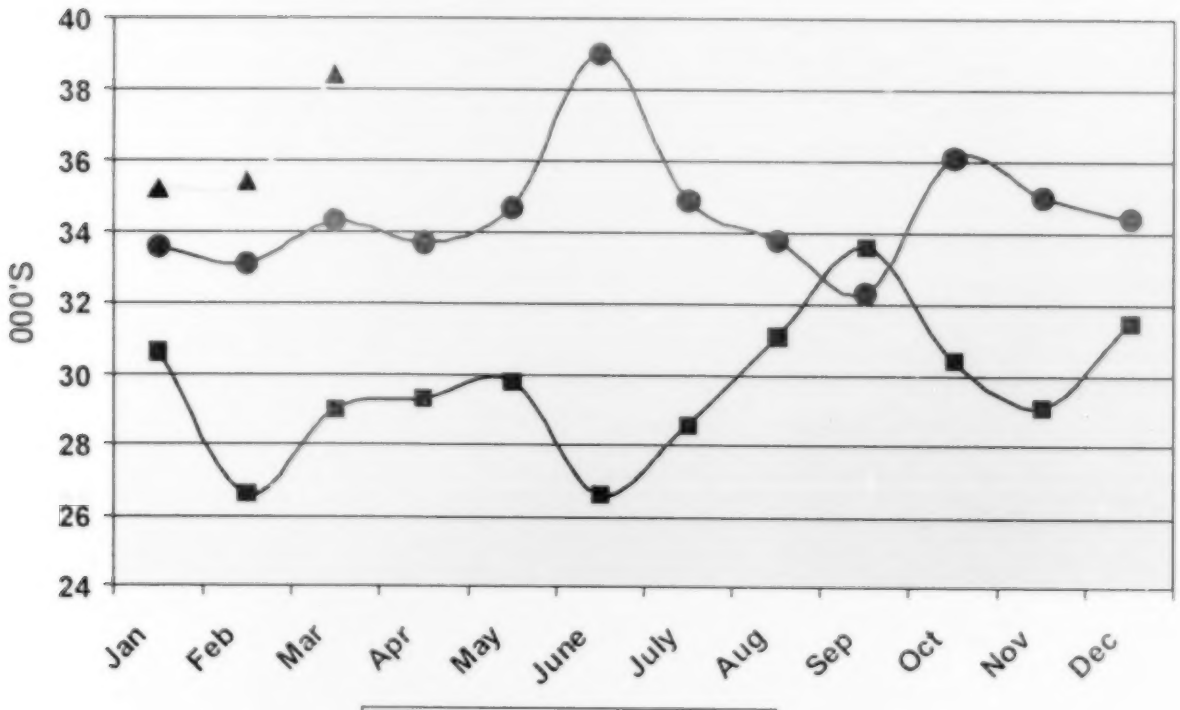
Labour Force Statistics for New Brunswick

Unemployment

There were 38 400 people unemployed and seeking work in March. This is 3 000 more people than what was recorded last month and is 4 100 more compared to the same period last year.

UNEMPLOYMENT
New Brunswick

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



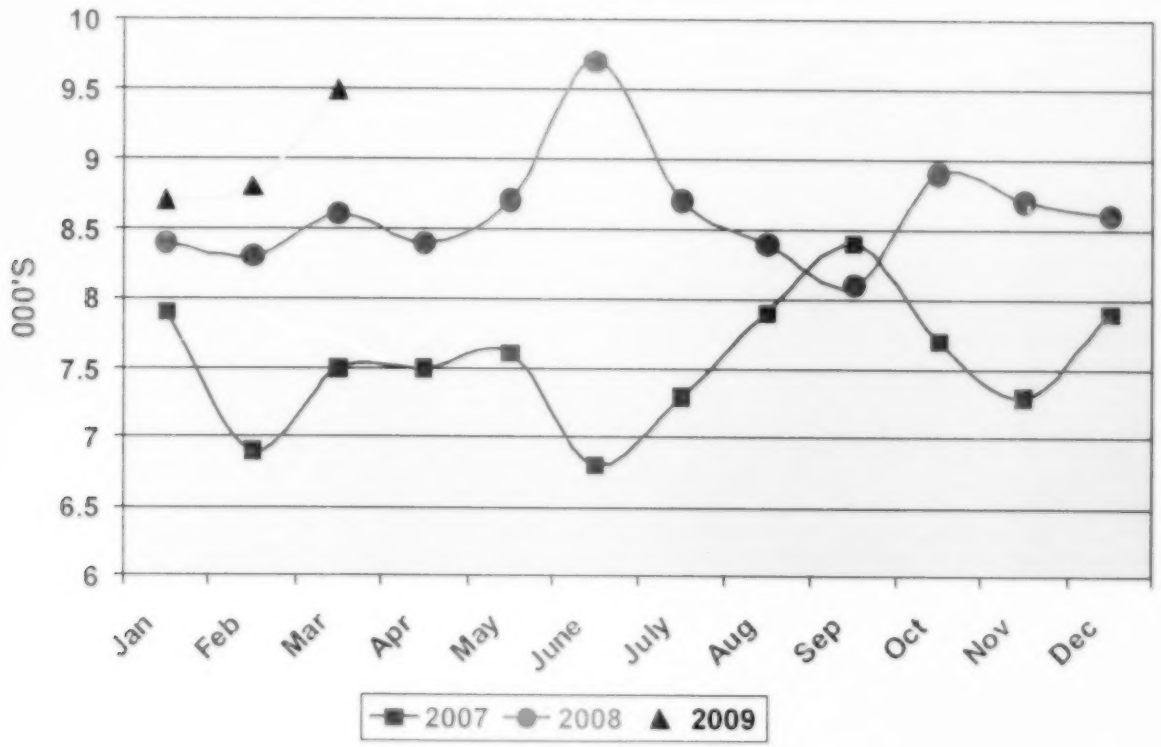
Labour Force Statistics for New Brunswick

Unemployment Rate

New Brunswick s unemployment rate of 9.5% was 0.7 of a percentage point higher than last month and was 0.9 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
New Brunswick

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



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Labour Force Statistics for New Brunswick

Regional Information

Statistics Canada reports labour force statistics for the economic regions* as three month moving averages of actual (not seasonally adjusted) data**.

Labour Force Statistics for Economic Regions					
March'09	**Northeast**	**Southeast**	**Southwest**	**Central**	**Northwest**
Labour Force (000)	71.4	110.5	95.7	70.2	43.4
Employment (000)	58.4	101.4	89.4	64.1	38.4
Unemployment (000)	13.0	9.1	6.4	6.1	5.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	18.2	8.2	6.7	8.7	11.5

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

Employment by Economic Regions (000's)				
	YTD* **	**March '09**	**February '09**	**March '08**
Northeast	59.2	58.4	58.5	65.4
Southeast	103.4	101.4	103.5	98.8
Southwest	89.0	89.4	89.1	87.0
Central	65.0	64.1	65.0	64.5
Northwest	38.8	38.4	38.8	36.2

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

In March of 2009 compared to March of 2008, employment increased in the Southeast (+2 600), Southwest (+2 400), and Northwest (+2 200) regions while employment decreased in the Northeast (-7 000) and Central (-400) economic regions.

* The five economic regions are: Northeast (Restigouche, Gloucester and Northumberland counties); Southeast (Kent, Westmorland and Albert counties); Southwest (Kings, Saint John and Charlotte counties); Central (Queens, Sunbury and York counties); and Northwest (Carleton, Victoria and Madawaska counties).

** Regional figures cannot be directly compared with the data for the province as a whole unless that data are also reported as three month moving averages of actual data. This manipulation of the data has the effect of smoothing out monthly variations, making it easier to see longer term trends.

*** Year-to-Date

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New Brunswick Industry Analysis

Employment growth on a year-over-year basis was strongest in the following sectors *:

Public Administration (21.3%) – In March of 2009, there were approximately 28,600 people employed in this sector (tying the record high set in October of 2008). This is the nineteenth month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year (the last 16 months can be considered significantly stronger). Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year over year basis in 18 of those months. This suggests that all levels of government in NB continue to have confidence in the prospects for the future of the province, however, the deteriorating fiscal position being brought on by the downturn in the global economy and recent announcements about hiring freezes, will limit growth in this sector going forward.

Construction (9.4%) – In March of 2009 there were approximately 25,600 people employed in this sector. This is the first month since November of 2008 where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year over year basis in 18 of those months (with 15 happening in the period between March 2007 and May 2008 – it has only happened three other times after May of 2008). After being a major employment growth engine for the last 3 to 4 years, some weakness in this sector is beginning to show.

Educational Services (8.2%) – In March of 2009 there were approximately 27,600 people employed in this sector. This is the sixth month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year over year basis in 10 of those months. The sudden change in the employment fortunes for this sector may be directly attributed to the sudden downturn in the economy – the demand for educational services tend to go up when the employment prospects in the labour market deteriorate.

Employment was weaker on a year over year basis in the following sectors **:

Information culture and recreation (-15.0%)*** – In March of 2009 there were approximately 10,800 people employed in this sector. This is the tenth month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year over year basis in 10 of those months (most of these came in the latter half of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008), and employment was the same on a year over year basis in 3 other months.

Other Services (-13.1%) – In March of 2009 there were approximately 13,900 people employed in this sector. This is the eleventh month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year over year basis in only 6 of those months (most in late 2007). Therefore, this sector is showing definite signs of employment weakness.

Finance, Insurance, real estate, and leasing (-10.0%) – In March of 2009 there were approximately 14,600 people employed in this sector. This is the fifth time in the last six months where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year over year basis in only 9 of those months. This is not surprising as this is the sector feeling the brunt of the American initiated global credit crunch.

* Includes the top three sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year over year) increase in employment.

** Includes the bottom three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year over year) decrease in employment.

*** The Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) industry is found within this sector.